

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the first full paragraph beginning on page 17, line 11 as follows:

Filaments 302B can be contacted by air in conduits 332B and 334B as in the process described in ~~Buntin~~ Butin, supra. See also U.S. Patent No. 4,741,941 to Englebert et al., also assigned to the same Assignee as the present invention. The filaments 302B are ejected from the die 204B and collected on the forming surface 207B to form the polymer tufted layer 108B. Suction box 336B applies a vacuum to the randomly entangled filaments, which results in a pressure differential forming pockets that produce hollow projections or tufts from the undersurface of the web.

Please amend the second full paragraph beginning on page 17, line 18 as follows:

Forming means for the tufts can be any porous surface through which a thermoplastic polymer and air can be drawn, e.g., forming wire, perforated plates, perforated drum, and so forth. See also, for example, ~~Engelbert~~ Englebert, supra. Again, the tufts can be formed by a variety of methods, including, but not limited to, meltblown (polymer), cast film, formed filaments, spunbond, bonded-carded web, and so forth. See also, for example, ~~Engelbert~~ Englebert, supra. In one aspect of the invention, the tufts forming the tufted layer(s) are protrusions or projections that measure a certain length or height, as discussed in more detail in Figure 5.

Please amend the first paragraph in Example 1 beginning on page 25, line 20 as follows:

EXAMPLE 1

An interior tufted nonwoven material facing was made in accordance with this invention using a forming wire available from Albany International under the trade designation Formtech™-6. Meltblown fibers were formed by extruding the polymer at an extrusion temperature of about 490°F and at a rate of about two (2) pounds/in/hour/meltblown die. The molten meltblown fibers were attenuated in an air stream having a flow rate of approximately 7.5 standard cubic feet per minute per inch (hereinafter "scfm/in") ~~scfm/in~~ for the tufted layer and approximately 11.25 scfm/in for the coform layer at a temperature of approximately 525°F.